

**DANTES Special Enlisted Advisor,  
Master Gunnery Sgt. James O'Keefe**

## DANTES Special Enlisted Advisor retires from Marine Corps

**F**rom instructing young recruits on the drill field, to leading Marine musicians on the parade field, to guiding Service members on their education quests, Master Gunnery Sgt. James P. O'Keefe Jr. has shaped the lives of Marines and Service members for over 26 years. O'Keefe retired from the U.S. Marine Corps on February 23, serving his last years as the seventh DANTES Special Enlisted Advisor.

Originally from Nebraska, O'Keefe enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1980 and was assigned as a field artilleryman in 29 Palms, Calif. From 1983 to 1987, he served as drill instructor, water survival instructor, and platoon commander at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, Calif.

While in California, O'Keefe earned his associate degree from National University. In 1987, he attended the School of Music in Norfolk, Va., and was assigned to serve with "The Commandant's Own," the United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps, (the only Drum and Bugle Corps in the U.S. Armed Forces) at historic Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C.

Master Gunnery Sgt. O'Keefe attended the Staff Non-Commissioned Officer Degree Completion Program in 1990 and graduated with a bachelor of science degree from Park University in 1992. He served as staff non-commissioned officer in charge and acting deputy director of the Family Service Center at HQBN, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, Henderson Hall, from 1992-1995.

He returned to Marine Barracks in 1995, and in 1997, he was appointed Drum Major of "The Commandant's Own" (pictured below.)

Since April 2000, O'Keefe has been serving as the seventh Special Enlisted Advisor to the Director of DANTES, providing outreach and education information to Service members worldwide.

"While at DANTES, I've had the enviable task of 'reminding' Service members of the VolEd programs and services available to them," said O'Keefe. "Junior Service members have high expectations of those chosen to lead them – one of these expectations is accessibility to education and certification opportunities."

What advice does he give to junior enlisted? "First step, gain your MOS/ rating competency, then recognize the incredible value of investing in your future through education," emphasized O'Keefe. He also added, "Know the location of your nearest Education Center. Go there and meet the staff of counselors and map an education path for your future."

DANTES thanks Master Gunnery Sgt. O'Keefe for his service to this country and for his tireless efforts to educate our Service members through VolEd programs.

We wish him fair winds and following seas.

### From: Omaha, Nebraska

**Career Highlights:** As a Drill Instructor "making Marines" and as a Drum Major leading "The Commandant's Own" serving in the public eye.

**Family:** Wife, Diane, retired Marine Reservist; daughter, Lydia, age 11; brother, Tom O'Keefe, recently retired Marine Chief Warrant Officer-4.

**Future Plans:** Presently assessing where best to invest his energy to improve the lives of others, possibly instructing Service members in personal financial management.



## Testing Calendar

### April 2007

6 Excelsior Extended  
Response (Essay)

16-21 GRE Subject \*

28-2 May Praxis\*

### May 2007

8, 10, 15 ASE (CONUS) \*\*

8-10 ASE (Overseas) \*\*

### June 2007

1 Excelsior Extended  
Response (Essay)

11 LSAT

### August 2007

3 Excelsior Extended  
Response (Essay)

4-8 Praxis \*

### September 2007

1 LSAT

#### Notes:

Overseas test centers send orders six weeks before the test date. CONUS test centers send orders four weeks before the test date. Contractors ship tests to arrive just before the planned test date.

\*Select only one test date from the published period for DANTES testing and specify that date on the order form.

\*\*Deadline for ordering ASE exams is 24 March.

#### Online calendar:

[http://www.dantes.doded.mil/  
dantes\\_web/library/docs/  
examinations/06-07cal.pdf](http://www.dantes.doded.mil/dantes_web/library/docs/examinations/06-07cal.pdf)

## Web-DATIP enhancements

DANTES recently released several improvements to the Web-based DANTES Automated Test Inventory Program (DATIP) that will be apparent to TCOs when they submit the 31 March 2007 inventory reports. The major one involves an automated e-mail notification system that addresses the major Thomson Prometric inventory discrepancies for CLEP, DSST and SAT examinations. TCOs and ATCOs may receive one of two types of e-mails:

The first addresses test booklets that are identified as "Inventory Not Reported." Because this type of discrepancy may involve a potential test loss, the TCO or ATCO is asked to respond directly to the DANTES Exam Programs with information regarding the status of this test booklet. The e-mail contains a list of possible reasons for this situation to occur.

The second e-mail addresses data entry errors usually involving incorrectly entered test codes or serial numbers. The e-mail will identify a test booklet as "Inventory Not Reported" and a corresponding or paired test booklet identified as "Inventory Reported Incorrectly." The TCO or ATCO needs to review these paired records and confirm which test booklet is actually in the safe. Using the edit function, the TCO marks the "Inventory Reported Incorrectly" record as returned and re-enters the correct one. Please communicate these corrections directly to Thomson Prometric.

Other enhancements involve a confirmation notice that appears after the TCO certifies that all tests currently reported in DATIP are correct. The notice states that the inventory reports have been successfully submitted to DANTES. Additionally, the TCO is now required to view and print the inventory reports before the Web-DATIP application actually submits the reports to DANTES.

Finally, the "DANTES Annual Testing Facilities Review " is now an on-line form available to DANTES TCOs and ATCOs under their EMIS account.

## ACEG to hold annual conference

The Association for Counselors and Educators in Government (ACEG) will hold their annual Professional Development Institute (PDI) Program on 22 March 2007, in conjunction with the annual American Counseling Association Convention and Exposition held in Detroit from 21-25 March 2007. The PDI agenda can be found at [http://www.dantes.doded.mil/dantes\\_web/library/docs/organizations/aceg\\_PDI.pdf](http://www.dantes.doded.mil/dantes_web/library/docs/organizations/aceg_PDI.pdf).

As a reminder, ACEG is an association whose members provide counseling and education programs and services for members of the military community, as well as other government agencies at the federal, state, or local level. Originally established as the Military Educators and Counselors Association, ACEG provides a network to serve the professional needs of its members via affiliation with the 45,000+ members of the American Counseling Association (ACA) and the divisions of ACA.

To join ACEG, visit [http://www.dantes.doded.mil/dantes\\_web/library/docs/ACEG\\_Membership.pdf](http://www.dantes.doded.mil/dantes_web/library/docs/ACEG_Membership.pdf).

## Want the DIB via e-mail?

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The DIB is also available on the DANTES homepage at <http://www.dantes.doded.mil>.



## TCO Workshop held in Atlanta

Recently, DANTES held a Test Control Officers (TCO) Workshop in Atlanta, Ga. with 45 attendees from all over the United States, as well as Germany, Japan, Africa and Turkey. One attendee was being sent to the Middle East from his current assignment in Germany.

This three-day TCO workshop was a first in Atlanta at the Marriott Marquis, which will be the location for the Worldwide Education Symposium in 2009. Several critiques said this site would be a great location for Worldwide. Many workshop attendees stated they were very happy there is a food court, within a five-minute walk, with about 20 different choices of food vendors at reasonable prices. Also within that five-minute walk is the MARTA Transportation System, where you can go from the Peachtree Center near the hotel to the Atlanta International Airport for less than \$2.

This hotel is currently under a multimillion dollar renovation that is scheduled to be completed prior to Worldwide in 2009. We hope you will make plans to be at WW09.

## 2007 Regional Workshops

Regional Workshops are designed to provide information and updates about DANTES programs. They are targeted to Education Services Officers (ESOs), Test Control Officers (TCOs), counselors and others who represent the military voluntary education community, along with representatives from colleges and universities who provide degree programs to our Service members. The focus is to promote a better understanding and utilization of the voluntary education programs managed by DANTES.

The upcoming Regional Workshops are scheduled for Southbridge, Mass.,

7-9 August and Atlanta, Ga., 18-20 September. For detailed information,

visit our Web site at [http://](http://www.dantes.doded.mil/dantes_web/training/regwkshps.htm)

[www.dantes.doded.mil/](http://www.dantes.doded.mil/dantes_web/training/regwkshps.htm)

[dantes\\_web/training/](http://www.dantes.doded.mil/dantes_web/training/regwkshps.htm)

[regwkshps.htm](http://www.dantes.doded.mil/dantes_web/training/regwkshps.htm).



## Colorado's Advisory Council on Military Education (CO-ACME)

Colorado ACME organizers held their first meeting in conjunction with the Council of College and Military Educators (CCME) conference in Monterey, Ca. on 22 January 2007.

Led by CO-ACME President Dorothy Gotlieb, meeting attendees approved the bylaws as written and then discussed various items currently on their radar screen. These include the need to: increase

collaboration among members, address residency requirements (HB 1023), promote new on-post education facilities, gain a better understanding of what "soldier friendly" means, and increase spouse support. Gotlieb stated the CO-ACME's purpose is to "aim to resolve issues to further education and economic enterprise for military members and their families."

Gary Woods, Director, Educational Opportunities, in the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense, Military Community and Family Policy, reported that one of the challenges facing military education is the 70,000 troops and families who will be returning from Europe in the next five years and added, "many of them will be coming to Colorado." Gottlieb suggested there is a potential for the role of the CO-ACME to expand—to possibly become a regional group and have a larger voice.

The next meeting of the CO-ACME is scheduled for Friday, 11 May. Pikes Peak Community College will host the meeting at their Rampart Range Campus in Colorado Springs.

Further information can be found on the DANTES Web site at [http://www.dantes.doded.mil/dantes\\_web/organizations/acme/colorado.asp](http://www.dantes.doded.mil/dantes_web/organizations/acme/colorado.asp).



## Book Review

# "How to Pay for Your Degree in Education & Related Fields"

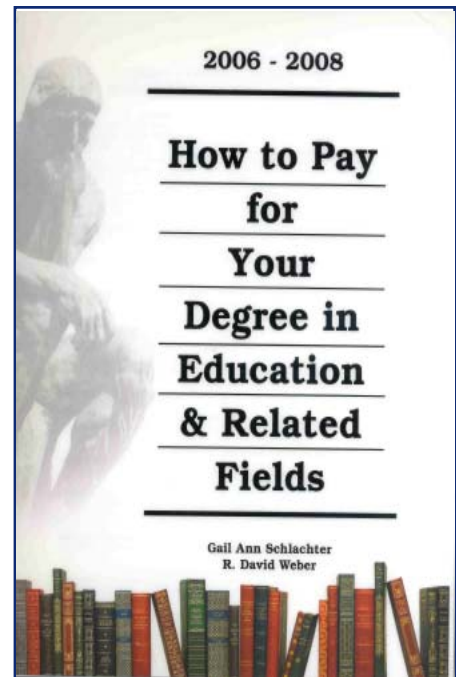
If you or your clients are interested in funding for a teaching degree, you may want to consider this book. The new edition of "*How to Pay for Your Degree in Education & Related Fields 2006-2008*" by Gail Schlachter and R. David Weber is unlike any other financial aid listing. Not only does it provide the comprehensive coverage of education-related funding opportunities (more than 850 entries), but also it offers the informative program descriptions.

In addition, only funding set aside for high school seniors, high school graduates, current college students, returning college students, and a graduate student working on a degree in education, is included.

Next, only the larger (\$500 or more) funding programs are described in this book. You can take the money awarded to any number of schools. All of the entries in this book are "portable" (can be taken to any number of schools).

Finally, unlike other funding directories which tend to follow a straight alphabetical arrangement, this book groups entries by the various types of financial aid available, e.g. scholarships, fellowships, loans and forgivable loans, grants and awards.

Plus, the book includes all the information you will need to decide if a program is right for you (eligibility requirements, financial data, duration, special features,



limitations, number awarded, and application date).

The book is available for \$30 from Reference Service Press at (916) 939-9620 or

<http://www.repunding.com>.

## Montgomery GI Bill-AD Quick Series to be distributed

The latest edition of the *Montgomery GI Bill – Active Duty, What You Need to Know As You Leave Active Duty*, (MGIB-AD) Quick Series booklet, DANTES Stock #2406, has been delivered to DANTES. The DANTES Distribution Center has begun the automatic distribution of the booklet to those DANTES account holders who participate in this distribution.

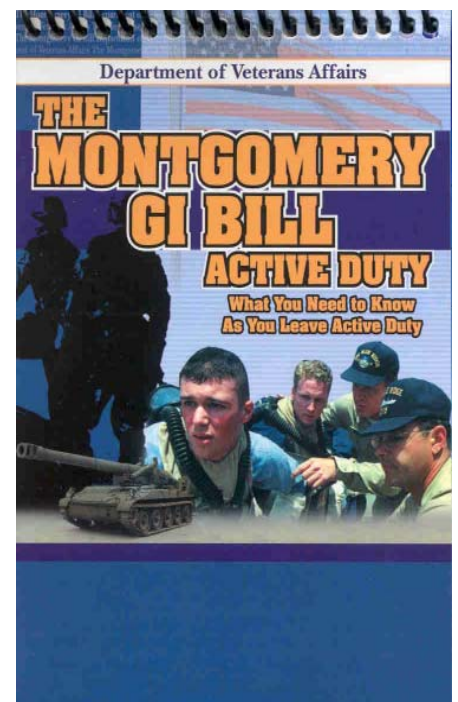
You should receive these shipments during March. If you are not sure of your account's status, contact the Distribution Center via e-mail at [dist@voled.doded.mil](mailto:dist@voled.doded.mil) or call DSN 922-1082, or Commercial (850) 452-1082.

If you do not have automatic distribution, you may order this publication by either e-mailing or calling the DANTES Distribution Center. Please include your DANTES ID number, current shipping address, Stock #2406 and the quantity desired.

This Quick Series booklet answers the following questions:

- Do I qualify?
- What training may I take?
- How does it work?
- How do I contact VA?
- How can I find out about other sources of assistance?

For complete information on the Montgomery GI Bill, visit <http://www.gibill.va.gov> or call 1-888-GIBILL-1 (1-888-442-4551).



## Portable courses available from Olympic College

Olympic College has recently developed courses that are contained entirely on a USB drive. These college courses do not require an Internet connection. Students can work on their courses whenever it is convenient by plugging their USB drive into a laptop or desktop computer.

These courses are truly “portable” and have acquired a name of their own – both students and college employees call them POCO (“portable courses”).

Olympic College allows students to enroll and start the eight-week

POCO courses the first Monday of each month. Course materials including packets and textbooks are



available through the online bookstore. While the POCO courses do not require chat room time or submission of assignments via Internet, instructors encourage students to phone or e-mail them whenever possible to provide immediate feedback. Coursework

such as digital quizzes, tests, and writings are recorded on the USB drive, and the USB drive must be

returned by the student to Olympic College to be evaluated before grades are issued.

This course format is truly “military friendly,”

allowing students to take their courses whenever, wherever they are located.

For further information, contact Wendy Miles, director of Military Education and Training, at (360) 475-7786 or [wmiles@olympic.edu](mailto:wmiles@olympic.edu).



## Distance Learning conference scheduled in June

The National University Telecommunications Network (NUTN) is offering their 25th Anniversary Event “The Future of Distance Learning: Key Trends to Watch.” The event is scheduled for 10-12 June 2007 at the Crowne Plaza City Center in Philadelphia, Pa.

During this three-day event, distinct keynotes, experts from the field, and information-rich panel sessions will address several important aspects of key trends in distance

learning.

NUTN 2007 will bring together distance learning administrators and practitioners; continuing education and higher education directors; college and university faculty and academic affairs personnel; distance learning faculty and staff; business and higher education partners; and military education personnel.

Visit <http://www.nutn.org> to learn about NUTN and to register for this conference.



### DANTES Directors

Current DANTES Director Jeffrey P. Cropsey, left, greets former DANTES director, retired Navy Capt. John Brick. Brick was the second director of DANTES from 1977-78 and stopped by recently for a visit.

# Welcome to eighth DANTES Special Enlisted Advisor

by MGySgt James O'Keefe, DANTES Special Enlisted Advisor



MGySgt O'Keefe

The DANTES Special Enlisted Advisor billet rotates among the Services. For the first time in its history, DANTES will include a

representative from the U.S. Coast Guard in this rotation to serve as the eighth DANTES Special Enlisted Advisor to the Director.

Master Chief Petty Officer Timothy J. Zernick was born in Orville, Ohio and raised in Barnesboro, Pa. He completed Coast Guard Recruit Training at Cape May, N.J., in September 1983. His first assignment was the Coast Guard Cutter Mallow in Honolulu, Hawaii.

He was the honor graduate of the Coast Guard Marine Science Technician "A" School at Yorktown, Va., in October 1985. After "A" school, he was assigned to the Coast Guard Marine Safety Office Philadelphia.

In July 1987, he transferred to the Coast Guard National Strike Force,

Gulf Strike Team in Mobile, Ala.

In 1991, he continued National Strike Force Duty as an Oil and Hazardous Materials Response Supervisor with the Atlantic Strike Team in Fort Dix, N.J.

From 1995 to 1999, Master Chief Zernick was stationed at Activities Baltimore as the Marine Environmental Response Officer. From 2000 to 2003, he served in the computer branch of the Coast Guard Engineering Support Center in Baltimore, Md.

In 2003, he advanced to Master Chief and served as Command Master Chief, Training Officer and Educational Service Officer for Sector Delaware Bay in Philadelphia, Pa.

As of March 2007, he assumes duties as the eighth Special Enlisted Advisor to the Director of DANTES.

MCPO Zernick has a bachelor of science degree from Excelsior College, is a Certified Career Development Facilitator, and is certified to teach elementary and middle school science in New



Master Chief Petty Officer Zernick

Jersey. He is currently pursuing his master of arts in education from Western Governors University.

His personal decorations include the Coast Guard Commendation Medal with gold star and the Coast Guard Achievement Medal.

Master Chief Zernick is married to the former Tammy Stemmer of Lumberton, N.J. They have one daughter, Courtney.

Please join us in warmly welcoming MCPO Zernick and his family to our VolEd community and the DANTES team.

## DSST increase

Effective 1 October 2006, Thomson Prometric increased the price of their paper-based and Internet-Based DSSTs from \$60 to \$70. Please advise education center staff involved in the testing program that all unfunded examinees are subject to the increased test fee. Information flyers should also be updated to reflect the new fee.

## Minnesota Guard online

As the recipient of the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning's 2006 Institutional Service Award, Minnesota Online has provided a much-needed educational program for the members of Minnesota's National Guard. The program—Guard Online—was set up in 2003 to provide courses to the state's National Guard troops sent to Bosnia and is only one of the numerous programs and services that the Minnesota State Colleges

and Universities System (MnSCU) offers to military veterans and Service members. Twenty-nine of the 32 Minnesota State Colleges and Universities are part of Service Members Opportunities Colleges (SOCs). In addition, the establishment of SOCGuard provides a link between the higher education community and the Army National Guard to enhance education opportunities for Guard members.

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# Spouses to Teachers program expands to Pacific

**M**ore opportunities are now available for military spouses living in the Pacific and thinking about a career in public education. Effective immediately, the Spouses to Teachers (STT) program is available, offering resources and counseling to overseas military spouses interested in a professional and portable teaching career.

The Department of Defense program provides counseling and

guidance on state-specific certification requirements, certification options, scholarships available and state employment resources. Up to \$600 also is available via a voucher process to reimburse the costs of testing fees associated with teacher certification/licensure.

Tylee Roller, STT program manager, fully understands that starting or completing a college degree and certification can be expensive and time consuming.

"Military spouses want a career that is professional, marketable, and makes them feel alive and teaching does that," Roller said. Over 70 percent of the military spouses registered with the program have a bachelor's degree or higher, have an abundance of worldly travels, and have a lot of passion to instill learning in the children of tomorrow and make a positive difference in their lives.



offered in 14 states, covering 64 percent of the military spouse population in the following states: California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Louisiana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, Texas, Virginia, Utah and South Carolina.

More than 3,500 spouses are registered with STT stateside, with 475 spouses hired through the program since its inception in October 2004, and more than 1,500 spouses have been reimbursed for teacher certification exams.

Eligible participants include spouses of active duty personnel, Selected Reserve and National



**Spouses to Teacher (STT) participant P.J. Fuller, above right, at the Troops to Teachers national conference in Washington, D.C. in January. Fuller was a civil servant for 19 years while traveling around with her military spouse. She utilized the STT program and began a teaching career in Colorado. She is currently teaching special education at an elementary school in Colorado Springs.**

**Her husband, retired Army Command Sgt. Maj. Sherman Fuller, above left, is a Troops to Teachers participant.**

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**"The Spouses to Teachers Program shared with me financial options, alternative licensure programs, and reviewed my transcripts offering expert advise on areas that needed strengthening."**

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**P.J. Fuller, Spouses to Teachers participant**

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This is the second overseas expansion for the program, following a successful launch into Europe in October 2006. One hundred military spouses have registered with the STT Europe program and are currently working on degree completion and teacher certification requirements.

Stateside, the pilot program is

Guard, and Individual Ready Reserve recalled to active duty.

Spouses to Teachers is managed by Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES).

For additional information, contact Spouses to Teachers at (800) 231-6282, DSN 922-6282, <http://SpousestoTeachers.com>, or e-mail [stt@voled.doded.mil](mailto:stt@voled.doded.mil).



## DANTES personnel changes

Vince Harmon, formerly DANTES Education Support Department Head, is now DANTES Deputy Director. Harmon has been with DANTES for 17 years.



Steve Beckman, formerly DANTES Program Operations Specialist, Education Programs Department, is now Manager, Counselor Support Programs with Education Support Department. Beckman has been with DANTES for nine years.

## UMUC personnel changes

University of Maryland University Campus (UMUC) announced the following personnel changes: Asia Division Vice President and Director Joseph Arden has been reassigned to UMUC headquarters in Maryland where he will serve as senior advisor to the provost for overseas education operations.

Lorraine Suzuki will succeed Arden as the interim vice president and director of UMUC Asia. Suzuki was the associate dean of the division with many years of experience with UMUC in Asia, first as a faculty member and then as an administrator.

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<b>Education Support Dept.</b>	<b>3134</b>	<b>1162</b>	
Military Evaluations/SOC/MIVER	3164	1162	<a href="mailto:ace-soc@voled.doded.mil">ace-soc@voled.doded.mil</a>
WW Symposium/ACME	3132	1162	<a href="mailto:training@voled.doded.mil">training@voled.doded.mil</a>
Training	3135	1162	<a href="mailto:training@voled.doded.mil">training@voled.doded.mil</a>
Counseling	3131	1588	<a href="mailto:counseling@voled.doded.mil">counseling@voled.doded.mil</a>
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Military Counselor WebBoard	3126	1588	<a href="mailto:refpubs@voled.doded.mil">refpubs@voled.doded.mil</a>
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<b>Education Programs Dept.</b>	<b>3125</b>	<b>1005</b>	
Examinations	3122	1160	<a href="mailto:exams@voled.doded.mil">exams@voled.doded.mil</a>
Distance Learning	3129	1161	<a href="mailto:dstlearn@voled.doded.mil">dstlearn@voled.doded.mil</a>
Tuition Assistance	3130	1161	<a href="mailto:tahelp@voled.doded.mil">tahelp@voled.doded.mil</a>
Certification	3194	1005	<a href="mailto:certprog@voled.doded.mil">certprog@voled.doded.mil</a>
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